

Puglia from North to South

10 days — the complete grand tour

Duration: 10 days / 9 nights

Accommodation: 4★ Hotels and Resorts (Gargano, Central Puglia and Salento)

Meal plan: Half board (water and house wine included with meals)

Transport: Tourist coach

Tour leader: Accompanying the group for the entire tour

Recommended period: March · April · May · June · September · October · November

Group size: Minimum 25 — maximum 50 people

Price: From €1,100

Puglia is long, generous and surprising. This tour travels through all of it, from the mystical, wild Gargano to sun-kissed Salento, with Matera and its Sassi as a stop of extraordinary emotional intensity. Ten days to truly understand this land: its UNESCO monuments, its white villages, the sea and the authentic flavours of every area you pass through.

Day 1 — Arrival in Puglia

Arrival at Bari airport, welcome by the guide and coach transfer to the 4★ hotel on the Gargano. After check-in, the afternoon is free for a first taste of the area: an evening stroll through the village, the salty Gargano air, the calm of a landscape that promises a lot. Welcome dinner and overnight stay.

Day 2 — Monte Sant'Angelo and Vieste

Breakfast and departure at 9:00 am. The morning is dedicated to Monte Sant'Angelo, one of the oldest sacred sites in Europe: the Sanctuary of San Michele, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is carved into the living rock and wrapped in an unrivalled mystical atmosphere. A stone staircase leads to the Sacred Grotto of the Apparition, a pilgrimage destination from all over the world. From the belvedere, the view takes in the entire Gulf of Manfredonia.

In the afternoon, transfer to Vieste — the pearl of the Gargano. The medieval old town is a maze of white alleyways, staircases and slender archways leading down to the sea. The Swabian Castle, built by Frederick II, dominates the town from above, while the Romanesque Cathedral of the Assumption holds centuries of Apulian history. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 3 — Castel del Monte and Trani

Morning departure for Castel del Monte, the octagonal castle built by Frederick II around 1250 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site: one of the most powerful symbols of Puglia, set in the golden light of the Murge. Guided tour with insight into the symbolic and astronomical meanings of this medieval masterpiece.

In the afternoon, visit Trani: the quintessential Romanesque town, with its extraordinary Cathedral of San Nicola Pellegrino standing directly on the sea. The old harbour, noble palazzos and the Swabian Castle complete an afternoon of rare architectural beauty. Transfer to the hotel in Central Puglia, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 4 — Altamura and Matera

Morning in Altamura, a Frederician town and home of Italy's most famous DOP bread. Guided tour of the old town with its magnificent medieval cathedral, noble palazzos and the characteristic claustris — the quarters where communities of different origins once lived side by side. Afterwards, visit to a historic artisan bakery and tasting of the famous Altamura bread: a sensory experience not to be forgotten.

In the afternoon, arrival in Matera — the City of the Sassi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and European Capital of Culture 2019. Guided tour of the Sasso Barisano and Sasso Caveoso districts: a vertical labyrinth of stairways, alleys, rock churches and dwellings carved into the tufa, where layers of human history stretch back thousands of years. Free time for shopping in local artisan workshops. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 5 — Castellana Caves and Alberobello

Morning at the Castellana Caves: one of the most important underground cave systems in Europe, with a 2-hour route descending over 60 metres among extraordinary stalactites and stalagmites, underground canyons and the spectacular White Cave. A journey through Puglia's geological time.

In the afternoon, Alberobello — the town of the trulli, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Rione Monti and Aia Piccola districts form a landscape unlike anywhere else in the world: thousands of limestone buildings with their characteristic white cones. Guided visit to the Siamese Trullo, Casa D'Amore and the world's only trullo-church. Free time for shopping. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 6 — Bari and Polignano a Mare

Morning in Bari Vecchia: a 2-hour guided tour through the medieval maze of the old town, taking in the Basilica of San Nicola (one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the Mediterranean), the Norman-Swabian Castle, the Cathedral of San Sabino and the alleys where local women still sit on their doorsteps hand-shaping orecchiette. Stop to taste the famous Bari-style focaccia and visit to an artisan dairy with a tasting of mozzarella, burrata and Apulian taralli paired with local wine.

In the afternoon, Polignano a Mare: the town that inspired Domenico Modugno, perched on limestone cliffs with breathtaking terraces over the Adriatic. Guided tour of the old town and an essential stop for Polignano's famous caffè speciale. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 7 — Martina Franca, Ostuni and transfer to Salento

Morning in Martina Franca, the baroque jewel of the Itria Valley: the Basilica of San Martino, the Ducal Palace, and noble palazzos with their ornate facades. Transfer to one of Puglia's largest olive oil mills for a guided tour and an extra-virgin olive oil tasting: aromas and flavours that tell centuries of rural culture.

In the afternoon, Ostuni — the White City. The old town, entirely whitewashed, its cobbled streets and the Gothic cathedral overlooking the valley: Ostuni has kept its soul intact over time. Guided tour through the alleys of the old town. Transfer and arrival at the 4★ hotel/resort in Salento, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 8 — Santa Maria di Leuca and Gallipoli

Morning in Gallipoli, the Kalè-Polis — the Greeks' "beautiful city". Guided tour of the ancient town on the island: the 17th-century baroque cathedral, the web of white alleyways, Aragonese-era remains and the evocative 16th-century underground olive mill (Frantoio Ipogeo) — an underground system of machinery for producing the oil that once supplied the entire Kingdom of Naples.

In the afternoon, Santa Maria di Leuca: the point where Italy ends, the "De Finibus Terrae". A one-hour boat trip along Salento's most beautiful coastline, among sea caves and cliffs plunging into crystal-clear water. Photo stop at the De Finibus Terrae Sanctuary, with views over both seas — the Adriatic and the Ionian. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 9 — Lecce and Otranto

Morning in Lecce, the "Florence of the South": Porta Napoli, the Cathedral, the Roman Amphitheatre and, above all, the Basilica of Santa Croce — the absolute masterpiece of Lecce baroque, an explosion of figures carved into the local stone. Café stop for the ritual pasticciotto with Lecce-style coffee, and free time for shopping in the clothing and craft shops of the old town.

In the afternoon, Otranto: the town that looks towards Greece, the easternmost point in Italy. The medieval old town is enclosed by imposing walls. The Cathedral houses one of the most extraordinary mosaic floors in the world — the work of Pantaleone (1165), depicting the tree of life with Alexander the Great, the months of the year and the expulsion from Paradise. The Chapel of the Martyrs holds the relics of the eight hundred killed by the Ottomans in 1480. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 10 — Departure

Breakfast, packing and check-out. Coach transfer to Bari airport with the memories of a journey that will be hard to forget.

The price includes

- Meals and accommodation at 4★ hotels/resorts with half board (water and house wine included with meals)
- Coach transfers for the entire tour, including parking and tolls
- Tour guide accompanying the group for all 10 days
- Admission to Trani Cathedral
- Shuttle + admission to Castel del Monte
- Visit and tasting at the Altamura bakery (DOP bread)
- Admission to a Cave House and rock church in Matera
- Admission to the Castellana Caves
- Tasting of Bari-style focaccia and Peroni beer
- Visit and tasting at a Bari dairy (mozzarella, burrata, taralli and wine)
- Caffè speciale at the Polignano a Mare café
- Visit and tasting at the Ostuni olive oil mill (extra-virgin olive oil)
- Boat excursion to the caves of Santa Maria di Leuca (1 hour)
- Admission to the Frantoio Ipogeo (underground olive mill) in Gallipoli
- Admission to the churches of Lecce: the Cathedral and Santa Croce
- Pasticciotto and coffee at a café in Lecce
- Radio guides for the entire tour

The price does not include

- Air or overland travel to reach Puglia
- All lunches
- Local tourist tax, payable on site
- Tips, personal extras and anything not listed under "The price includes"

⚠ While all the stages and activities described will be maintained, the programme may be subject to changes depending on the location of the chosen hotel/resort and adverse weather or sea conditions.

Info and Bookings:

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Authorisation, Province of Lecce: SCIA protocol no. 20217

Liability insurance - travel agency - tour operator: Allianz No. 732142917

Guarantee fund: Fondo Vacanze Felici No. 2018